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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 SINGAPORE 000212

SIPDIS

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 02/25/2020

TAGS: PGOV PTER ASEC KVPR CVIS SN

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE RELEASES SELF-RADICALIZED DETAINEE

Classified By: CDA Daniel Shields for Reasons 1.4 (b,c,d)

¶1. (S) Summary: Singapore announced on February 24 the February 21 release of Internal Security Act (ISA) detainee Abdul Basheer Abdul Kader on a Suspension Direction (SD), prohibiting his association with any militant or terrorist groups or individuals and limiting his ability to travel. The Ministry of Home Affairs released a statement saying Basheer had been cooperative in investigations and shown significant progress in his rehabilitation. Local press reports indicate that Singapore currently holds 14 suspected terrorists in ISA custody, has an additional 46 persons on Restriction Orders and three persons, including Basheer, on Suspension Directions. End Summary.

Singapore Releases Self-Radicalized Detainee

¶2. (SBU) Singapore announced February 24 the February 21 release from ISA preventive detention of self-radicalized terror suspect Abdul Basheer Abdul Kader. According to press reports, Basheer was arrested in a Middle Eastern country in 2007 and was repatriated to Singapore and detained here for planning and preparing to engage in militant activities in Afghanistan. Basheer, a former lawyer and law lecturer, reportedly self-radicalized after reading extremist propaganda on the internet and decided to wage jihad in Afghanistan. Basheer left Singapore in 2006 for a Middle Eastern country that the GOS did not publicly identify (but see paragraph 5 below). Within two months of his arrival in the Middle East, Basheer bought an air-ticket to Pakistan with the intent to make contact with the militant group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Basheer hoped to train with Lashkar-e-Taiba and seek their assistance in crossing into Afghanistan to join the Taliban. Basheer was arrested before he departed for Pakistan.

¶3. (S) In addition to providing more than the usual amount of background information to the press on Basheer's activities, the Ministry for Home Affairs used its standardized language in announcing that Basheer had been cooperative in investigations and shown significant progress in his rehabilitation.

Suspension Direction

¶4. (S) Unlike most ISA detainees, who are released on Restriction Orders (ROS), Basheer was released on a Suspension Direction, which suspends his detention order, but allows MHA to reinstate his detention order if he fails to

abide by certain conditions and restrictions, including a prohibition on association with any militant or terrorist groups or individuals and a limit on his ability to travel.

Pre-Announcement Briefing

¶ 15. (S) Singapore Internal Security Department (ISD) briefed both Legatt and Regional Affairs (RA) on February 23, two days prior to publicly releasing the information. ISD provided the Legatt and RA the same information it subsequently released publicly, with the exception of also indicating that Egypt was the Middle Eastern country where Basheer was arrested.

Current Numbers of ISA Detainees and Restriction Orders

¶ 16. (U) Local press reports indicate that Singapore is currently holding 14 suspected terrorists in preventive detention under the ISA, and that 46 persons are subject to Restriction Orders. An additional 3 persons, including Basheer, are on Suspension Directions.

Actions Taken by Consular Section

¶ 17. (S) The Consular Section conducted independent name checks and verified that Abdul Basheer Abdul Kader is listed in CLASS with "00" a hit and is listed on the TIDE watchlist.

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¶ 18. (S) A local check of the Consular Consolidated Database with available information indicates no visa record for KADER, Abdul Basheer Abdul. Recipients are requested to recheck the CCD to verify.
SHIELDS

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http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eap/singapore/ind_ex.cfm